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Free GED/NCRC testing

Free GED/NCRC testing will end June 30. Please try to schedule as many students as possible for GED® testing prior to June, which is historically the heaviest testing month. Even when testing centers add slots and entire test sessions, many cannot accommodate the high demand experienced in June 2011. To help ease the late-year onslaught, KYAE began free testing a month earlier this year.

Please continue to encourage all GED® test takers to also take the assessment to earn an NCRC, yet another workforce credential to help them as they transition to college and careers.

GED® pricing, website announcement

As you know, GEDTS previously announced that the cost to take all five parts of the GED® test via computer-based testing (CBT) will be \$120. KYAE plans to implement a GED® CBT pilot in three test centers beginning July 1, 2012. KYAE anticipates that through calendar year 2013, paper-and-pencil GED® testing will remain available in Kentucky, in addition to CBT, and anticipates that the cost of the paper/pencil version will remain at \$60. The 2013 GED® test, both CBT and paper/pencil, will use the current 2002 test series.

A new test series is expected to be introduced in January 2014 at which time GED® testing will be available exclusively via CBT. GEDTS recently announced that the \$120 test fee will remain in effect for the new test through the end of 2014. [Click here](#) to read the entire announcement.

Also, GEDTS has revised its website – check out www.GEDtestingservice.com. According to GEDTS, the site offers an improved user experience, industry updates and resources important for both test takers and adult educators.



Policy updates

As we look ahead to the 2012-13 fiscal year, KYAE wants to inform and remind you of several policy changes that will take effect.

➤ Assessment

- The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education, has notified adult education programs that the **CASAS Life and Work Listening assessment** for ESL may not be used for NRS purposes after June 30, 2012. Programs that have students enrolled on this assessment must make sure they have been post-tested prior to June 30, 2012. This assessment will be removed from KYAE's list of approved assessments. CASAS Reading will remain an approved assessment.
- The **BEST Plus assessment** is NRS approved at least through June 2014. At this point, it is unknown whether the NRS approval will be extended. KYAE will keep providers apprised of any developments on the BEST Plus assessment. The **BEST Literacy assessment** is approved by NRS through 2017. Questions or concerns about the BEST assessments should be directed to aea@cal.org or (866) 845-2378, option 1.

➤ Performance and Accountability

- As discussed during December 2011 Program Director Meetings, KYAE is revising its Performance and Accountability policy effective July 1, 2012. [Click here](#) to review the revised policy.

Professional growth opportunities

Several professional growth opportunities are on the horizon. Please check out the following activities.

- **2012 Alliance Institute for a College-Going Culture, Collaborating for College Readiness and Success, June 7-8, Marriott Louisville East.** This free event, hosted by the Kentucky GEAR UP Alliance and the Council on Postsecondary Education, is open to all educators involved in college readiness, access and success. The first day of the institute will feature national speakers in the areas of college readiness and success. The second day will consist of break-out sessions on the following themes: context for college readiness, collaboration for college readiness, classroom perspectives on college readiness and counseling for college readiness. Programs may use performance and/or PD funding to attend the institute. For more information and to register, [click here](#). **The registration deadline is May 24.**
- **Teachers' Domain Collections.** KET has uploaded three new collections in Teachers' Domain. The collections include background essays and discussion questions useful for staff development:
 - [Teaching Strategies: Resources for Adult Educators](#)
This collection of resources features strategies and techniques to facilitate learning in the adult education classroom. (Video of Duane Lambert, Pat Marshall and Elizabeth Dinkins)
 - [Math Instructional Strategies: Resources for Adult Educators](#)
This collection of resources was produced by KET for educators. Videotaped segments taken in actual classroom settings provide examples of strategies for teaching math in the adult education classroom. (Video of Mike Caudill, SJ Brennan, Betsy Popple)
 - [Reading Instructional Strategies: Resources for Adult Educators](#)
This collection of video segments produced by KET provides resources for teaching reading in the adult education classroom. (Video of Tanya Johnson and Kay Combs)

PowerPath success stories

KYAE programs continue to share [PowerPath](#) success stories. Jackie Robertson, Hancock County adult education director, sent the following stories after implementing PowerPath in her program. She says she hopes her program's experience will inspire others to try PowerPath.

"[A student] entered our program to improve TABE scores for employment purposes. PowerPath screenings indicated that she had attention issues and visual stress syndrome. She always wore a billed cap when she could, so she was already compensating. She stated that she had never been able to do math and doubted that we could change that! After being in the program for six weeks, she raised her math score two NRS levels, and she earned a silver NCRC! The only differences were that we let her wear her cap in class, she used a colored overlay and colored paper, and she planned her study using SMARTER plans. She stated: 'I think it's a great program. It taught me a lot I didn't know about myself as a student.'"

"A college student who had always struggled with math and was taking a remedial algebra class [enrolled in the program]. He suffers from severe migraine headaches. After screenings he used a colored overlay, colored paper and SMARTER plans. We even printed number lines and graph paper on colored paper for his homework. His instructor let him use it for tests as well. He passed his class and raised his TABE math score one NRS level. John stated: 'The tan paper cuts down on the glare and putting a green overlay on my books helps me see clearer. I put little sticky notes below the lines I am reading because I had trouble following lines and would mix up my math problems. I feel that this program has helped me with my school work. It has become an important part of my college career.'"

PowerPath screens for key breakdowns in learning that result from challenges in vision and hearing, visual stress syndrome (VSS), attention and information processing. It provides tools for identifying the underlying barriers to education and employment success.

PD partner retires

Please join KYAE in sending best wishes to Connie Spencer-Ackerman on her well deserved retirement. Connie has worked with adult educators across Kentucky over the past 10 years in her role as director of the Adult Education Academy at Morehead State University. She has spearheaded valuable professional development that has helped move Kentucky's adult education system forward. Congrats, Connie!

Grant opportunity

The U.S. Department of Education has released the 2012 application for the Promise Neighborhoods program, which will provide \$60 million to continue support for existing implementation grants and award new planning and implementation grants. Adult education providers are eligible. As part of the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, Promise Neighborhoods seeks to direct federal funding to transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty into neighborhoods of opportunity. **Applications are due July 27, 2012**, and must be fully uploaded and submitted, as well as date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system, by 4:30 p.m. EST. Awards will be made in December 2012.

Planning grants will support cradle-to-career services for high-need communities. Implementation grants will support efforts to enlist and coordinate better education, health, and safety services; provide young people the opportunity to be successful in school and everyday life; and boost family engagement in student learning and access to learning technology. Funds may be used to improve learning inside and outside of school; build support staff; secure additional and sustainable funding sources; and establish data systems to record the community's development and progress.

Nonprofits, institutions of higher education and Indian tribes are invited to apply for funds to improve educational outcomes for students in distressed neighborhoods. The USDOE encourages interested parties, particularly adult education providers, to review *Proposed Implementation Grant Priority 8: Family Engagement in Learning Through Adult Education*, a priority when plans are coordinated with adult education providers serving neighborhood residents.

Valuable resources

- The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) has launched an official Wonderopolis® app, which is free and available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Adult educators can explore the Wonder of the Day and browse past Wonders ... all on the go. Apple iPhone and iPad users can download the app at <http://bit.ly/Jh4lq6>. Android users can download at <http://bit.ly/II0sNZ>.
- Also new from NCFL is "A Day at Dollar General: Learn While Shopping," an interactive online game to help parents learn financial concepts and carry those over to experiences at home and in real-life situations with their children. Intended to be used in tandem, the online and printed segments of the program are effective tools in teaching families about personal finances. To access the online interactive component and download or order a printed version of the program guide, please visit www.famlit.org/free-resources/activities/learnandshop. Printed guides are available while supplies last. The guides are free, but there is a \$6 charge to cover shipping and handling costs.
- If you haven't yet registered for Tech Teaching Tips from KET, you're missing out on practical and innovative strategies every month. There's truly something for everyone. [Click here](#) to subscribe.
- [Eureka](#) is a trade books database that allows adult educators to identify engaging texts for struggling readers or to increase the background knowledge of students who want to take the GED and go on to postsecondary education. The reading and writing strategies in the Strategies section may be taught to students to increase their reading skills. The lesson plans may be taught as is or adapted by the instructor. Some of the lesson plans are based on one or more trade books and use one or more of the strategies. The thematic collections can be used for in-depth study on a topic. The books in the thematic collections are at different reading levels so all students could engage in reading and discussion. For a PowerPoint tutorial on using Eureka, [click here](#).